

3. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the attributes of use include at least one of shape, grain, and function.

4. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein each different one of the products of the series product is defined by having a different value for at least one of said attributes of use.

5. (Amended) The method according to claim 6, wherein the products of the series product have a number of different attributes of use within a range from 10 to 20.

6. (Amended) A method comprising:  
defining a set of products having a collection of attributes of use which are arbitrarily predetermined as a series product;  
defining each product contained in said series product by a collection of values of said attributes of use;  
setting manufacturing series activities for achieving particular values of the individual attributes of use; and  
producing a manufacturing process for a particular product of the series product by arranging said manufacturing series activities in a prescribed sequence.